

Belvin House  
412 North Eighth Street, Richmond, Virginia

HABS No. VA-111

HABS  
VA  
44-RICH,  
13 -

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Virginia

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Eugene Bradbury, District Officer  
210 East Franklin Street, Richmond, Virginia

HABS  
VA

44- RICH

13-

BELVIN HOUSE  
412 North Eighth Street, Richmond, Virginia

Owner: Belvin Estate

Date of Erection: 1810

Architect:

Builder: William Clayton Williams

Present Condition: House is being razed for sale of materials

Number of Stories: Two stories and basement

Materials of Construction: Walls are of brick, the face brick laid in Flemish bond. At present, front wall is covered with stucco. Wooden cornices have been applied over original stone arches at window heads. Present front porch and doorway are of Greek Revival Period. Present roof of tin is not original. Of unusual detail in the drawing-room was the marble base, which is believed to be Italian marble, in connection with a wood floor and a wainscot of mahogany. The base was one and one-half inches thick, six inches high, with a tongue at the top to receive wood base mould, and at the bottom fitted into a groove at the floor. At time of measurements the marble base and all mahogany wood-work were heavily coated in red-brown paint, over several previous coats of same.

Other Existing Records: In Young's map of Richmond about 1809, Lot No. 480 is recorded as Lot No. 482. Tax records show Lots No. 482 and No. 499 as unfinished dwelling, office, and stable, owned by William Clayton Williams, with an assessment of \$8,000. In 1811, Lot No. 482 and Lot No. 499, owned by William Clayton Williams, was assessed at \$12,800.

VA  
44- Rich  
132

Recorded in the personal notes of Edward V. Valentine, the property was enumerated and valued in 1811 as follows: Owner, William C. Williams; buildings; smokehouse, office, and two story brick dwelling, assessed at \$6,500.

Additional Data: During process of wrecking in April, 1936, evidence of fire was revealed, which indicated that part of the second story timbers and the roof had been destroyed. The replacements were of Greek Revival Period. This evidence, together with the fact that the existing roof had apparently been raised about four feet above the top of the brick wall on a frame work of studding starting from the top stone band course, indicates that this roof was not the original roof. Whether this roof was replaced as a result of the fire or the result of the roof collapsing by force of explosions at the Evacuation of Richmond, as has been reported, is not known. It is possible that the fire and the collapse occurred at the same time.

The "Belvin House" was one time the home of Dr. George Bagby's family. (Dr. Bagby was a distinguished journalist, lecturer, and one of Virginia's most widely known humorists - writing under the pen-name of "Mazie Addums.")

#### Bibliography:

Young's Original Map of Richmond, Virginia, of about 1809

Library of Southern Literature, compiled Under the Direct Supervision of Southern Men of Letters (1907 - 1909). Publisher - The Martin and Hoyt Company, Atlanta, Georgia

Property Books, City of Richmond, Virginia, 1810 and 1811

Deed Books, filed in the Chancery Court, Richmond, Virginia

Lawyers' Title Insurance Corporation, Richmond, Virginia

Personal Notes of Edward V. Valentine

*Virginia Thompson*  
Supervising Historian

Approved: June 2, 1936

*Eugene Bradbury*  
MAJOR EUGENE BRADBURY, A. I. A.  
District Officer

*Reviewed July 31, 1936 THW.*